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16 April 1953

COUNTRY: Macedonia/Bulgaria/Italy

SUBJECT: Background, Whereabouts and Activities  
of Ivan Mihailov

PLACE ACQUIRED: [REDACTED]

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DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE: [REDACTED]

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1. The Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization [IMRO] has within the last thirty years completely changed its course. From a true revolutionary organization, it has deteriorated to a point where it is today a private group used only by Ivan Mihailov, whose ambitions are to become the ruler of a free and independent Macedonia.
2. The US branch of the IMRO is the Macedonian Political Organization [MPO] which, through its secretary Luben Dimitroff, acts as a money raising organ to support Ivan Mihailov. Dimitroff is completely subservient to Mihailov who sets the policy for MPO activities in the US. Dimitroff and several of his staff are paid for their work, while Ivan Mihailov receives approximately US\$ 8,000 per year plus expenses. Although the money to pay the salaries is raised in the US very few people know that Ivan Mihailov is hiding in Italy under an assumed name which unfortunately, I do not know.
3. Up until 1928 Mihailov's job was to supply ammunition for the Macedonian revolutionists in Sofia, Bulgaria. Mihailov lived in Sofia where he was the official representative for the IMRO when that organization was under the leadership of Todor Alexandroff. In 1928 Alexandroff was assassinated and Mihailov assumed leadership of the IMRO. Insistent rumor has it that Alexandroff was murdered at Mihailov's behest, but no proof has ever been shown that this is so.

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4. Since 1928 the IMRO has never held an official congress where Mihailov would have to give an accounting of his actions. From 1928 until 1934 Mihailov remained in Sofia and crushed all opposition to his actions. From 1928 until 1934 Mihailov remained in Sofia and crushed all opposition to his leadership; rumor again has it that more than 1,000 Macedonians were eliminated, mainly by the Bulgarian government, who might have contested Mihailov's leadership.
5. In 1934 Mihailov left Bulgaria and was next seen in Turkey. Later he moved to Poland, and, when the Germans invaded Poland he moved to Zagreb where he was the personal guest of Ante Pavlovich. When the Germans took Zagreb he moved to Vienna as a special guest of the Nazi government.
6. During World War II Mihailov worked in full cooperation with the Nazis using his man (fnu) Tzilev /also known as Zileff and Tzileff/ in dealings with the Gestapo. Tzilev was later killed, sometime in 1944, by the Gestapo. Later Assen Avramov /sometimes known as Avramoff/ took Tzilev's place and is currently /February 1953/ in Canada.
7. Avramov was sent to Canada by Mihailov to strengthen the MPO, collect more money and also to spot the opposition to the MPO both in Canada and the US.
8. Mihailov has long been suspected of playing "footy" with the Soviets. In 1928, Mihailov sent to the Soviet Union one, (fnu) Vlahov to meet with Stalin and Georgi Dimitroff to discuss the possibility of the formation of a Free Macedonian state. In 1945 when Tito created an autonomous Communist Macedonia, the MPO congress in the US sent a congratulatory telegram to Tito. The telegram was published in "New Macedonia" 4 Oct 45 issue, an organ of the Communist party which is printed in Skopje. Later, when Tito broke from Moscow the MPO and Mihailov broke with Tito.
9. The relationships between Mihailov, the MPO and Dr "Gemie" Dimitroff have always been cordial. In late 1950 the "Macedonian Tribune" gave Dr Dimitroff a detailed interview, the only one of its kind given to any Bulgarian. In this interview Dr Dimitroff very generously disclaimed his rights to Macedonia and officially willed it to Mihailov.
10. Although the IMRO has no members nor groups in Macedonia, Bulgaria or Europe but only in the US and Canada, Mihailov's influence is still strong. For example the recently appointed head of the Bulgarian section of the Voice of America in Munich, Alexander Dimitroff, appointed one of Mihailov's right hand men to his staff; this is Christo Ognanoff (Ognianav) who, during World War II, was in Berlin in Hitler's Ministry of Propaganda. Ognanoff has written hundreds of articles against the US and Canada some of which were published in English in the Bulgarian paper "Zora". Recently Mihailov sent to the US two of his most trusted associates who are currently in Detroit. They are: Ivan Vassilev who has become president of the MPO branch in Detroit; Vassilev's real name is Ivan Ilchev but he changed it so he could enter the US. The other henchman is Argir NIKOLOV.

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11. In conclusion I would say that Ivan Mihailov is a gangster, terrorist who cannot be trusted by the US or anyone; he runs the IRMO and the MPO entirely for his own advancement.

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